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Literature and current events.—The great demand for a better understanding on the part of children of great issues in current events is compelling teachers to search for really worth-while material. Messrs. Speare and Norris of the faculty of the United States Naval Academy have compiled a book¹ of selections bearing on current problems which will prove helpful in this regard.

The fifty different selections are grouped under eight general headings. For example, under Group III, "Some Problems of Readjustment," we find "National Welfare Defined Industrially," a reprint from *The Saturday Evening Post*, being an extract from an article by Herbert Hoover. Under Group V, "The Essentials of World Peace," we find "Peace through Democracy" by Elihu Root. This article is a reprint from *International Conciliation* for August, 1917.

Every article has been chosen with regard to its English style, as well as the importance of the issues it presents. It offers opportunity to the student of coming in contact with the opinions of leading men on subjects of vital interest. The book is intended primarily for use in English classes, but may also be used in history and civics classes.

Physics in everyday life.—It is all too evident that the average high-school course in physics, by strict adherence to the conventional "forty experiments" and habitual catering to the requirements of the scientifically minded few, has largely forfeited its original advantage as that subject inherently most fascinating to the majority of boys. The introduction of more democratic "project" courses dealing directly with the multitude of mechanical appliances and phenomena within the practical experience of the ordinary citizen is, however, doing much to restore the subject to its rightful position and popularity.

A recent manual² of the newer type is rich in the sort of material needed by instructors seeking to place their work upon a more practical footing. The experiments in this book will appeal strongly to any boy with a normal taste for "taking things apart." Not merely the usual force pump, electric motor, and camera, but clocks, gas-heaters, thermos bottles, phonographs, telephones, vacuum cleaners, sewing machines, and a Ford engine, all are made to yield up their true inwardness to the inquiring student. So far as possible the kinds of apparatus selected are of the sort which "really do something." The cleaners clean, the wireless wires, and the sphygmometer is actually used to determine the blood pressure of the experimenters themselves. The practical bearings of the problems may perhaps be inferred from the series of studies

¹ MORRIS EDMUND SPEARE and WALTER BLAKE NORRIS, *Vital Forces in Current Events*. Ginn & Co., 1920. Pp. vii + 284. \$0.88.

² FREDERICK F. GOOD, *Laboratory Projects in Physics*. New York: Macmillan Co., 1920. Pp. xiii + 267.